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the shape of things to come, sponsored by the Peace and Freedom Party and the Long Beach Alliance for Survival. PFP Office, 3104 E. 7th St., downtown. 7 p.m.; free. Call 537-0051, ext. 221 or 596-1083.

ACTOR ROBERT WALDEN (The Lou Grant Show) joins the ACLU to talk about freedom of the press. Address: 11645 Chenault Ave., Brentwood. 3-6 p.m. Call 394-8935 or 396-1252.

HISTORIAN BETTINA APTHEKER (*The Morning Breaks: The Trial of Angela Davis* and *Women's Legacy: Irrepreivse Essays in U.S. History*) will speak on "Learning As Re-Vision: Women and the Struggle for Publication." First Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8th St., 11 a.m. Call 389-1356.

Monday, May 18

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SURVIVAL, an educational program with speaker Karen Liftin and a screening of the film ***The Phronkom Connection***. Bellevue Recreation Center, 826 Lucille Ave., 7:30 p.m.; donation $2. Call 667-2360.

PROGRESSIVE CHALLENGE TO THE NEW REPUBLICAN RIGHT, an educational forum with Tom Hayden. Temple Isaiah, 10345 W. Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m.; $3. Call 625-1956.

BE IT/WEAR IT!, personal power through costumes and masks, introductory classes with Priscilla Parshall. D.B.D. Center, 2847 S. Robertson Blvd.; free. Call 839-0661 for time. Classes in "Tuning Up Your Inner Music," with Joan Gemmell, and "Dancing from Source," with Katja Biesanz, occur later in the week.

Tuesday, May 19

CHEMICAL SHIELD DEFENSE COURSE, allows participants to receive a certificate in the use of tear gas canisters. Bay Cities Community Center, 2601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, 7 p.m. Call 828-3433.

NON-FICTION RESEARCH, a discussion with reference librarians Sally Dumaux and Bruce Henstell. Progressive Savings Community Room, 12175 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, 7:30 p.m.; $2. Call 664-2254.

STRATEGIC SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, a talk with Colonel Giora Rom, of the Israeli Air Force. Westside Community Center, 5870 W. Olympic Blvd., 1 p.m.; 50 cents. Call 938-2531, ext. 44.

LIBERTARIAN RULING CLASS THEORY, a talk with Sam Konkin, theoretician and activist. Dissent, 435½ N. Van Ness Ave., 8 p.m.; $3. Call 466-3776.

Wednesday, May 20

PEACETRAINING, a free introduction to the self-defense program which combines the physical, mental and emotional aspects of protection. Topics include the pros and cons of tear gas and other weapons, the "inner game of self defense" and the handling of fear, pain and panic. Miramar-Sheraton Hotel, Room Wilshire V, Santa Monica, 7:30 p.m.; free. Call 558-8449.

CO-OP BOARD TRAINING, an overview, dealing with such topics as producer and worker co-ops, the history of co-ops and legal responsibilities, precautions and relationships among members and staff, 6-10 p.m.; sliding scale fee, $1-$5. Call 626-1453 or 738-1254 for reservations and location.

Thursday, May 21

WHAT'S OUR GOVERNMENT DOING TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH?, a talk with Dr. Eula Bingham, former assistant secretary of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. UCLA's Center for Health Sciences, Room 43-105, noon; free. Call 825-4401.

ISSUES AND ADVOCACY POSITIONS OF THE GRAY PANTHERS, including the proposed cuts in Social Security, fighting discrimination on the basis of age, mandatory retirement, job sharing, the four-day work week and mid-career changes. Westside Jewish Community Center, 5870 W. Olympic Blvd., 1 p.m.; free. Call 938-2531.

FREE CLINICS AND SEMINARS FOR MC-INTOSH STEREO EQUIPMENT OWNERS, including information about turntables, cartridges, tuners, tape decks and electronic components. Emmons Stereo, 12600 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. Call 984-0264 or 877-0193 for specifics.

THE ART OF PROPHECY, a lecture given by astrologer-numerologist Monte Landis, will examine techniques employed by prophets throughout history, their role in contemporary life, and demonstrations of the art with members of the audience. Pacific Palisades Public Library, 861 Alma Real, 7 p.m. Call 822-0822.

Readings

L.A. POET BARBARA EINZIG (*Disappearing at Work*) will read from her works. Beyond Baroque Foundation, Old Venice City Hall, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice. Fri., May 15, 8 p.m.; free. Call 822-3006.

ELOISE KLEIN HEALY (*A Packet Bearing Like a Heart*) joins speakers at a conference scheduled by Women Writers West, including Lee Levy, Lea Schwetzer, Portia Dennis, Bayla Winters, Morgan Hill, Alayne Howard, Ronald Schneider, Lynn Schubert, Pat Cohan, Hilda Vincent, Marcia Spiegal, Yetta Speevack, Rosella Pace, Lee Baker, Marilyn Zeitlin, Josette Wingo and Penelope Torribio. Topics include Agents, Oral History, The Writer's Journal, Book Distribution, Visual Technique and Comedy Writing. L.A. Valley College, 5800 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys; Sat., May 16; $35. Call 781-1200, ext. 410.

HYEMEYOHSTS STORM, Native American author (*Seven Arrows*), will autograph his newly released *Song of Heyoehkah*. Bodhi Tree Bookstore, 8585 Melrose Ave.; Sat., May 16, 1-4 p.m.; free. Call 660-1054.

MALCOLM BOYD, author, critic and social commentator, will speak about "Reflections on My Twenty Books (*Are You Running with Me, Jesus?, Look Back in Joy: A Celebration of Gay Lovers*). George Sand Books, 9011 Melrose Ave.; Sun., May 17, 4:30 p.m.; free. Call 858-1648.

THOM GUNN (*The Fair in the Woods, To the Air, Jack Straw's Castle*), will read from selected works. Occidental College's Mary Norton Clapp Library, Jeffers Room, 1600 Campus Rd., Eagle Rock; Tues., May 19, 4 p.m.; free. Call 259-2801.

IMAGES OF L.A., Carol Ireland hosts L.A. poets. Far West Savings and Loan's Community Room, 7919 Sunset Blvd.; Tues., May 19, 7 p.m.; free. Call 464-3481.

THE POETS' PLACE continues its regular series of readings with an appearance by William Pillin (*To the End of Time*). Hyperion Theatre, 1835 Hyperion Ave.; Tues., May 19, 8 p.m. $1.50. Call 661-9188.

Free Fun

PUBLIC CONCERTS, encompassing a wide range of repertoire and musical styles from jazz and dixieland to chamber music. Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, downtown; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; ongoing. Call 974-1343.

FRENCH BAROQUE CHAMBER MUSIC for voice and strings features pieces by Clerambault, Leclair, Marais, Montéclair and Rameau. Occidental College's Bird Studio, 1600 Campus Rd., Eagle Rock; Tues., May 19, 8:15 p.m. Call 259-2785.

WORLDSAVERS

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*Travel must be completed on or before May 31.
**Travel must be completed by June 30.

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encouragement and support, not venomous, destructive criticism. Where's your loyalty? Do you want L.A. to go back to pre-1977, with only gigs like Pegasus and the Knack to go to? The next time you hate something that much, give it to someone else to review. Virulent reviews like yours only add another weight around the neck of a drowning scene that is being sunk by journalists the world over that call the L.A. music scene a plagiaristic, violent sham (see recent issues of *N.M.E., N.Y. Rocker, Rolling Stone*).

Also, your personal attack on Chris D. was unnecessarily hostile. Look, I despise Elvis Costello's phony American twang, but I will still credit him as a decent writer and accord him due respect for putting together a successful act. I'll even credit Frank Sinatra for that, the blood-sucking Republican mobster that he is. Do you have any *idea* how hard it is to make an LP? Obviously not, or after sniping Chris D's singing, you would have at least given him a verbal pat on the back for writing, designing and producing the record, or even for getting such a cool group of guys to play together . . . unless you two have some kind of feud going.

It stinks that you would sit down at a typewriter for an hour and try to wipe out what took months for those people to do. I believe that most critics want to be *in* bands (Claude Bessy, Richard Meltzer, Lester Bangs, Don Snowden all tried it), and often that bitterness seeps into the really foul reviews. Maybe you should try to get into a band and see if you feel less bitchy. At least you might get some insight, and maybe you'll stop taking cruel swipes at people who are trying to keep the music going rather than destroy it before it can even be heard.

—Veronica Cecile

Bruce D. Rhodewalt replies: *The L.A. music scene is being sunk by people who are afraid to say the emperor has no clothes. It used to be that the American system encouraged competition in order to produce better products. Your suggestion that a reviewer should avoid writing unfavorable things about L.A. bands is like telling Consumer Reports not to pick on manufacturers of faulty radios. (Anyway, I accepted the assignment before I heard the record.)*

I respect your magnanimous tolerance of Elvis and Sinatra, and you're right: Chris D. does deserve a pat on the back for assembling what is in most ways a fine package.

As far as joining a band myself, well, the last band I was in, a 1973 progressive band called Starfrost, made me realize what a pain it can be. But maybe you're right . . . Can you play bass?

Poetry

Sonia

Christ, you're hard to forget.
Sitting stately in your electric chair,
Waiting for something to happen.

So you have four kids and you're divorced,
And your leg doesn't work,
And you can't pull a thread through a needle.

I lied. Your hair isn't all
that much like wheat,
Your eyes aren't all that blue.

Didn't I tell you nothing changes in nineteen years?

I never liked a thing about you.

—Eric Roth

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